

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /082 W

----- 014782

R 201115Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7035

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1255

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BU (VELCHEV, BORIS)

SUBJECT: ABSENCE OF BORIS VELCHEV

REF: SOFIA 814

1. ONE INTERESTING (AND INTRIGUING) SIDELIGHT OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT IS MARKED ABSENCE OF CC SECRETARY AND POLITBURO MEMBER BORIS VELCHEV FROM ALL PUBLIC CEREMONIES, INCLUDING ARRIVAL, DINNER, AND RALLY SEPTEMBER 19.

2. ENTIRE BCP LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN ON HAND FOR ALL BREZHNEV EVENTS, WITH EXCEPTION OF VELCHEV AND POLITBURO MEMBER TODOR PAVLOV. PAVLOV, HOWEVER, IS WELL INTO HIS EIGHTIES AND NO LONGER CAN BE EXPECTED TO APPEAR BECAUSE OF FAILING HEALTH. VELCHEV, TOO IS OFTEN RUMORED TO BE ILL (SOME SAY HE HAS LYMPHATIC LEUKEMIA), BUT HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE APPEARED AT CHILEAN EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 15 TO SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOK. ILLNESS OR TRAVEL COULD CONCEIVABLY ACCOUNT FOR HIS ABSENCE, BUT WE CONSIDER THIS MOST UNLIKELY.

3. VELCHEV, AS CC SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF SECURITY APPARATUS, HAS LONG BEEN RUMORED TO BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE OVER HIS CONTINUED HARD LINE STANCE ON MACEDONIAN ISSUE AND DIFFICULTIES IN MINISTRY OF

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INTERIOR THIS YEAR (SEE REFTEL). ALTHOUGH THERE

IS NO HARD EVIDENCE, VELCHEV IS GENERALLY CREDITED  
WITH BEING MOST LIKELY OF BCP HEIRARCHY TO OPPOSE  
BREZHNEV PEACE POLICIES AND EAST-WEST DETENT. IF  
SUCH IS CASE, HIS ABSENCE DURING VISIT TAKES ON  
IMPORTANT OVERTONES AND IS CLEAREST SIGN TO DATE THAT  
HE MAY BE ON HIS WAY OUT.  
BATJER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SOFIA01255  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** SOFIA 814  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <07-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ABSENCE OF BORIS VELCHEV  
**TAGS:** PINT, BU, (VELCHEV, BORIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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